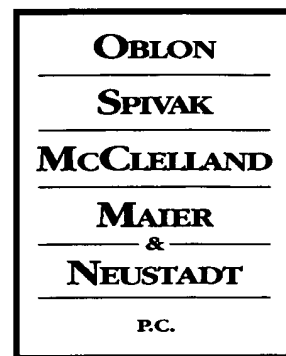




Docket No.: 216315US2S



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/988,136

Applicants: Toshihiro OOUCHI

Filing Date: November 19, 2001

For: COST ESTIMATION METHOD, COST ESTIMATION
APPARATUS, PRODUCT MANUFACTURING
ESTIMATION METHOD AND PRODUCT
MANUFACTURING ESTIMATION APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 3639

Examiner: NELSON, FREDA ANN

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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DOCKET NO: 216315US2S



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TOSHIHIRO OOUCHI : EXAMINER: NELSON, FREDA
SERIAL NO: 09/988,136 :
FILED: NOVEMBER 19, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3639
FOR: COST ESTIMATION METHOD, :
COST ESTIMATION APPARATUS,
PRODUCT MANUFACTURING
ESTIMATION METHOD AND PRODUCT
MANUFACTURING ESTIMATION
APPARATUS

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the election requirement dated August 24, 2005, Applicant elects Claims 1-8, drawn to a cost-estimation method and apparatus, as classified in class 705, subclass 400, for further examination on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected species.

Furthermore, while the Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct inventions, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Although the outstanding Official Action identifies different search classifications, it is believed that the claims of the present application would have to be searched in a handful of sub-classes. Furthermore, since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may

be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without substantial additional effort. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-14 be conducted.

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